

**ABSTRACT**  
**Communications Network**

In a communications network, a network node is connected to a signal source  
5 external to the network. The node receives control signals including a control field  
which may take one of a number of different values. The node overwrites the  
control field with an allowed value determined by the network operator. The  
control field may determine the routing of signals, in which case the node by  
overwriting the control field may restrict the routing of signals from outside of the  
10 network to a simple point-to-point connection.

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